

27
WIGAN



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

Nuisance Inspectors,

For the Year 1908.

Roger & Rennick, Printers, Public Hall, Wigan.



STANDISH,

MARCH, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1908.

I beg to gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance I have received in all matters tending to the health of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH HARWOOD WILSON, M.D.

Fellow Royal Institute of Public Health,
Member of the Incorporated Society of
Medical Officers of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30277127>

Statistical Summary for 1908.

|||||

Population, 1901 Census	...	...	...	6213
,, Estimated, July 1st, 1908	...	...	...	6925
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	11701 acres
Density of Population	...	...	...	1.68 per acre
Births—Males	...	...	...	71
Females	...	...	...	97
				——
				168
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	60
Females	...	...	...	55
				——
				115
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	24.26
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	16.60
Natural Increase of population by births over deaths				53
Total Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	14
Annual Rate of Mortality from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	2.02
Deaths in Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	18
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	107.14
Number of Illegitimate Births registered	...	...	...	0
Number of Illegitimate Deaths registered	...	...	...	0

TABLE I.

No.	BIRTHS.	No.	DEATHS	Infantile death-rate per 1,000 Births.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Death-rate under 5 years.	Death-rate over 65 years.
	Rate per 1,000 Population.		Rate per 1,000 Population.				
168	24.26	115	16.60	107.14	2.02	4.33	3.61

TABLE II. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5 Years.	5 and under 15 Years.	15 and under 25 Years.	25 and under 65 Years.	Over 65 Years.
Measles	...	2	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	2	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis	2	...	...	...	1	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	4	...	2	...	...	...
Cancer	2	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	11	...	...	...	6	3
Pneumonia	...	16	...	...	3	5	4
Cirrhosis	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Premature Birth	...	8	...	...	...	...	...
Parturition	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Disease	...	6	...	...	...	5	1
Accidents	10	...	...	...	7	1
All other Causes	...	37	...	...	...	19	14
	115	18	12	7	4	49	25

TABLE III.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

	No.		Rate per 1000 of Population.
Measles	2	...	0.29
Whooping Cough	6	...	0.86
Enteric Fever	2	...	0.29
Diarrhoea	2	...	0.29
Enteritis	2	...	0.29
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	14	...	2.02

TABLE IV.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Sheving- ton.	Wright- ington.	Par- bold.	Haigh.	Dalton.	Worthing- ton.	Total.
Diphtheria and Croup	17	3	—	1	—	—	21
Erysipelas	9	5	—	—	—	—	14
Scarlet Fever ...	4	2	1	2	1	—	10
Enteric Fever ...	3	1	—	3	1	—	8
Puerperal Fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33	12	1	6	2	—	54

The Births show a decrease of 10, being 168, with a rate of 24.26, against 178, and a rate of 26.10 for 1907.

The Deaths number 115, being an increase of 18 over those for 1907, the rates being 14.26 and 16.60 respectively.

The increase in the number of deaths are from general causes, but it will be noticed that Whooping Cough was the cause of 6 deaths, whilst in 1907 there were no deaths recorded from this disease. There have also been an unusual number of deaths from accidents, being 10, against 4 for the previous year. Bronchitis also shows an increase of 5 deaths over those of 1907.

The Zymotic Deaths show an increase, being 14, against 8 for 1907, with a rate of 2.02 and 1.17 respectively. Whooping Cough was the cause of 6 deaths, and Measles, Enteric, Diarrhœa, and Enteritis each contributed 2 deaths.

The Infantile Deaths show a decrease, being 18, as against 22 for 1907, with rates of 107.14 and 123.59.

PHTHISIS.—The number of deaths from this cause is two, as compared with three in the previous year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The number of cases notified was 54, against 47 for the previous year. They are made up as follows:—Diphtheria and Croup, 21; Erysipelas, 14; Scarlet Fever, 10; Enteric Fever, 8; and Puerperal Fever, 1.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT.—No legal action has been necessary under this Act.

DRAINS, SEWAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The only portion of the district where the sewage is systematically treated is that of Haigh. In the other portions the drains are generally in good condition. The Council are in negotiation with the Wigan Corporation for taking the sewage from a considerable portion of the Council's area. Other portions of the township not so provided for are considering schemes for dealing with the same in their own districts.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.—The district is divided into sections, each being let by yearly contract, and the work is mostly carried out satisfactorily. The Council, however, are faced by the fact that there are very few persons who tender for this class of work, consequently it is made difficult to carry it out to the best advantage.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—These have been inspected, and found to be satisfactory.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—These have been regularly inspected, and are found to be in a clean and sanitary condition.

LODGING HOUSES.—There are none in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.—There is a public supply at Appley Bridge, Shevington, Parbold, Haigh, part of Worthington, and the Hill Dale portion of Wrightington. The Local Government Board have held an enquiry on the question of a loan for the purpose of providing a water supply for the districts of Mossy Lea and Wrightington Bar. When this supply is provided, the only portion not supplied will be the township of Dalton. Here there are plenty of wells with a plentiful supply of good water, but the wells require supervision and attention in the matter of cleansing.

NUISANCES.—These are dealt with by the two Inspectors.

DISINFECTION.—This is carried out by the Council's Officials, by the use of fumigation by sulphur, and the provision of fluid and powder in cases of infection.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are only 3 in the township. These have been regularly inspected, and certain recommendations made, which have been carried out.

BIRTHS.—The greatest increase is shown at Haigh, being 34, against 24 for 1907; whilst Parbold and Dalton each show a decrease of 4.

DEATHS.—The greatest increase in the deaths is shown at Parbold, being 14, as against 4 in 1907. Shevington and Haigh each show a decrease of 6; Wrightington an increase of 3; and Dalton an increase of 4.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—The greatest decrease is shown at Shevington, being 5, against 10 in 1907, and at Wrightington, 4, against 8 in 1907. Parbold, Haigh, and Dalton each contributed 2, and Worthington 3.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.—6 deaths occurred from Zymotic causes at Shevington, 4 at Wrightington, and 4 at Haigh.

PHTHISIS.—There were only 2 deaths in the whole of the district, Wrightington and Haigh contributing one each .

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Of the total number of 54 cases notified in the district, 33 were at Shevington, 12 at Wrightington, 1 at Parbold, 6 at Haigh, and 2 at Dalton. No cases were notified at Worthington. 16 cases of Diphtheria, 9 cases of Erysipelas, and 4 of Scarlet Fever were notified at Shevington. Wrightington had 3 cases of Diphtheria, 5 Erysipelas, and 2 Scarlet Fever.

Of the 21 Diphtheria cases, 17 occurred in the Crooke portion of Shevington township. I attributed the initial outbreak to the deposit of sewage matter brought by a canal boat from an outside township, and deposited at the lower side of Crooke, with the object of levelling up a field and creating agricultural land. Steps were immediately taken to prevent any further deposit of matter of a similar kind, and if necessary to obtain a legal injunction.

These measures were sufficient to prevent a continuance of the nuisance. The District Council generously allowed me a free hand in the use of serum, with a satisfactory result; not a single case proved fatal.

The Council went even further, and we are now in a position to apply for an immediate injunction should any further source of nuisance of this character occur in any portion of the Wigan Rural District area abutting on the canal, which has usually been made the dumping ground for sewage matter from other townships which have not been able to dispose of it in their own area.

School Closure was necessary at Appley Bridge for a period of three weeks, from 1st May to the 22nd, on account of measles. There were also a number of absentees from Broad-o'th'-lane School, but neither closure nor exemption became requisite. Measles is not a notifiable disease within the Council's district.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the Nuisance Inspectors in the
Wigan Rural District, for the Year 1908.

Twenty-four notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances. Twenty-three have been complied with, and one in abeyance. No legal proceedings have been necessary to enforce the notices.

The Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces are in sanitary and satisfactory condition. No cases of overcrowding have been met with, and no offences under the Food and Drugs Act. There were no complaints of smoke nuisance.

Thirty-one canal boats have been inspected, and no breach of the Act or regulations, or any sickness or overcrowding have been met with, and the cabins have been found well and cleanly kept.

WILLIAM BIMSON,
Nuisance Inspector.

February 3rd, 1909.

Dr. Wilson, Medical Officer of Health, Standish.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to submit to you my report for 1908. Ten nuisances were found during the past year. Notices were served, and the same have all been complied with. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings.

The workshops were found to be in a good sanitary condition.

One case of overcrowding has occurred. Notice was served, and the matter has received attention.

All houses where infectious or contagious disease existed were inspected, and same have been fumigated, etc.

Thirty-three canal boats were inspected; the cabin of one was found leaking. Notice was served, and the defect has been remedied; the others were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. G. CLARK, C.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector and
Canal Boat Inspector.

